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Depot Town Rag

Volume 14, Number 7 *"All the news in one block in one month."*

A Publication of the DEPOT TOWN ASSOCIATION, INC. The Old Caboose, 400 Market Place, Ypsilanti, MI 48198

100% FREE Rag content

July 1991

- **Shoppers' Survey**
- **Fake history**
- Around the block w/ Trolls
- *Minutes of the monthly meeting*
- Song sheet to *save*

. . . and other strictly local stuff

Festival feel lasts all summer here

Remember when they used to say "New York is a Summer Festival?" That was after they started painting the subways and before the "I ♥ NY" slogan. And it was long before the current generation fell in love with Ypsilanti's old railroad district.

It was the gas crisis of the seventies that encouraged all those hokey little towns to start having local 'festivals' to celebrate their uniqueness and bring the yokels into town to see the Potato Queen or the hundred pound summer squash. Ypsilanti folks got on the band wagon too, wondering if they could encourage people to cash their pay checks and then come on down and hold their clubs' fund raisers on the same weekend. They called it the "Ypsilanti Yesteryear Heritage Festival." Most of it caught on. All but the "Yesteryear" part. But "Yestertech" certainly made sense to those folks who lived west of Greenfield Village!

They figured what they still had was every bit as good as what Henry Ford bought and moved -- and they kept coming down to this town's lovely parks and the old tenements in the railroad district to show it off.

June's Frog Island Festival seems to carry the Memorial Day parade tunes on into the sweet summer days and August's activities at Heritage Festival seem to cap them off perfectly. If we had a longer tourist season, we'd probably wind up being another Orlando, Florida, heaven forbid.

What New York City seems to have given up on works real well out here in the mid-west. Friends and neighbors still like to come downtown to see what's going on -- and Depot Town provides a great stage for that to happen upon.

Welcome back to the good old days. We're just all so glad you could come. Now get on a committee and next year you can own it! This fun *festival feel* belongs to all of us.

Sing a song of Ypsilanti

New York has two. So does Chicago. San Francisco has one. Even Kalamazoo has a song. And so does Ypsilanti. Several of them. Tell Frank Sinatra and Tony Bennett we're ready for them.

Any creative person should know that with such a melifluous moniker as *Ypsi-Lanti*, someone was bound to put it to a more formal musical form. It's only surprising that they're aren't more.

Romantics down in Depot Town will often settle for the melodious cacophony of train whistles, quacking ducks, bird songs and the babble of the Huron River. Set that to the counterpoint of tooting horns and sing-songy 'hellos' up and down the block and you've got the makings of a new operetta by a modern day Gilbert and Sullivan.

This issue of the *The Rag* attempts to play the 'middle set' of the season: right between June's Frog Island Festival and August's Heritage Jazz Competition. Sing along with this corny collection of tunes about Our Town. Save this month's center spread. Carry it in your wallet. Who knows? There's probably a group getting ready to sing one of them on the sidewalk right now! (pp 4&5)

Osler's newest song supported by UAW's *Solidarity* magazine

Ypsilanti songsmith Lee Osler is enjoying newfound support with his new tune from Mustache Records and Tapes. *How Would You Feel?* is the first of Lee's melodies heard in this block since City Council approved *Back to Ypsilanti* as "an official song of the City of Ypsilanti."

Perhaps Lee's song will hit closer to home that anyone might have thought; summer has seen a spate of the homeless emerging from the trackside jungle north of the district and panhandling along the sidewalks of Depot Town, much in the manner of the hoboes and 'boomers' of the Great Depression.

Depot Towner Don Broersma's campaign to recall the Governor seems to coincide with the recognition effort as well.

Here's what others had to say about *The Homeless Song* by Lee Osler:

•

"The lyrics are powerful and the song is powerful. It's very, very touching!"
- Randy Westbrooks, Public Relations, U.A.W. writer, *Solidarity* Magazine.

•

"This song totally brings to light the enormous national tragedy of this problem."
- Tom Gilardi, Promotions & Marketing

•

"A phenomenal song. I just got goose bumps, it touched me so!"
- Donna Southwell Ramsey, Washtenaw County Chairperson, Committee to Recall John Engler.

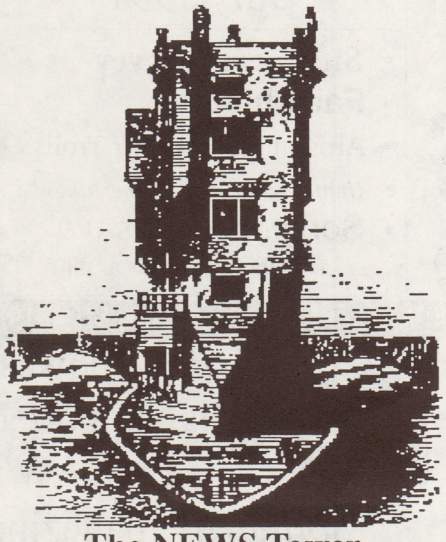
•

"Passionate and moving. *How Would You Feel?* provides a voice from all those who are homeless and reaching out for understanding."
- Judith Cawhorn, Community Relations Director, S.O.S. Crisis Center.

Lee's newest song appears in this issue along with happier melodies of Our Town's history.

Edifice Complex:

Local History that Never Happened



The NEWS Tower

The NEWS Tower (in the middle of the Huron River midway between Michigan Avenue and Cross Street) was not an early newspaper office or radio station, as some have suspected, but the North-East-West-South lookout for intra-City debates, battles and wars. Rather than try to fend them off, Tower officials merely scheduled them, so that citizens would not have to miss any of the excitement. It was perceived by many as the beginning of the City's first Master Plan.

Built of stones so ugly they had to be smuggled in under cover of darkness, the quarry of origin has since been flooded for protection from hostilities. Local custom is for fishermen to catch fish there, blind them, and thrown them back as a humane gesture toward their environment.

The foundation of the original NEWS Tower exists today, but nobody will tell exactly where it is for fear of being drawn into the current controversy.

The Tower's architect went on to design Ypsilanti's unique one-way street system. His first design had all streets heading out of town. The second design reversed that trend. The third (and present plan) was a little of each in no particular order.

Maloof's Cars Wash

Sun. $1 off wash
Mon. $2 off wash
Tues. $3 off wash
Wed. $2 off wash
Thurs. $1 off wash
Fri. $1 off wash
Sat. $1 off wash

317 E. MICHIGAN AVE.

Expires: July 15, 1991

Shoppers' Survey shows change of habits on block

More than 800 customer surveys have been collected since the February results were posted here and the spring responses show an increase in restaurant and tavern traffic, a rise in park activities and a general good feeling from our 'regulars.'

As usual, the little blanks weren't enough, and many wrote all over the backs of those tiny yellow slips. Here's a sampling of positives and negatives from our loyal clientele:

Positives:

- I love Ypsilanti, a old working man's town.
- I like this store's displays and just the atmosphere of Depot Town.
- Staff is friendly and helpful
- I love this shop. This is my first time here and I'm very impressed. It has a cozy and country feel about it. Looks great.
- Just about the only bookstores in Ypsilanti are college, occult and ones in sex shops. You may quote me.
- Depot Town is what all towns should have. I only wish — felt so safe and friendly. The businesses, Farmers' Market and Festivals all make living in Ypsi worthwhile.
- My waiter was terrific. The whole town is wonderful.
- We like the shops and also observing the ducks at the river.
- Like the shows, fair in the summer, go to the park, etc.
- Area well maintained, interesting shops, businesses, etc.
- Keep working to get an ATM here.
- Lack of Ann Arbor high prices and arrogance.
- RR tracks thru middle are interesting. Wouldn't see that at a mall.
- I watched it rebuild over the years.
- I truly enjoy the atmosphere. It's really comfortable and welcomed.
- I like it all. Wished my parents could see how you redone it. It's beautiful.
- Love the Co-op and Farmers' Market. Healthy food, friendly people, more old-fashioned atmosphere.
- It looks nice down here. It might get to the point of being the Upwardly Mobile Mecca (just kidding). Keep up the good work.
- I love the atmosphere, crazy things to buy in the antique shops, great food, low, low, low prices, the railroad tracks and the fact that it's only 4 miles from home!
- Many great times here - Jazz Festival, etc.
- Depot Town is living proof that motivation and commitment can effect political change and economic growth. I love this area of Ypsi.

What they're coming down here for:

Negatives:

-Antiques are overpriced and prices are generally non-negotiable. I shop a lot.
- Not enough product variety.
- Bring Blues back to town.
- I miss the 6 am breakfasts.
- Don't like lunch for 2 when we have kids. How about lunch for family with limit, maybe.
- Miss blues upstairs. Do they have pool lessons for beginners? If so, they should advertise.
- Very sad to see the local art gallery go.
- Don't like fact that there is no consumer type shopping (drug stores, grocery stores, etc.)
- Farmers' Market closes too early.
- Colder beer!
- Would like to see more of the same - only more of it. Antiques, novelty, restaurants. We love it.
- Need more of everything. Especially restaurants, bank, pizza shop.
- Lack of creativity in windows. No variety. No benches. Shop owners look sloppy.
- The shops we have need the fronts spruced up. They look seedy. The station house across from the Farmers Market - either tear it down or refurbish it. It's a crime it's been allowed to stay like it is for so many years! Add some benches for the public to stop and sit on.
- Don't like the rumbling noise the train makes when it goes by (Try to get this stopped, OK?) The general state of disrepair that the owner's office is in (*say*, call me. I could help you with this). Only one TV screen for sports events (hard to see from the bar unless you want to watch a game in reverse.

15% OFF all in-house printing with this coupon - during July!

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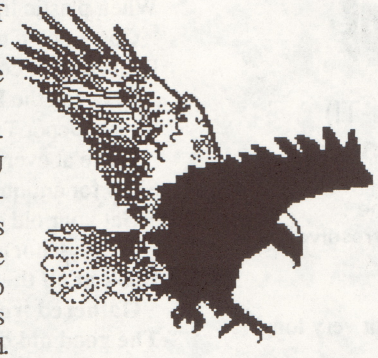
Hurons' *and* Eagles' fates were connected to the railroads

With the passing of EMU's Huron (Native American) logo, some new questions have arisen that haven't been asked since the Eagles Club (Fraternal Order of . . .) left Depot Town several years ago for their new aerie out in the township. The question on the tip of everybody's tongue is, "Will we have to change the names of the streets and rivers and everything else named after the Huron Indian, too?"



And the answer is, "Probably not. That's just the EMU Regents responding to the current Political Correctness (PC) mode." But what if we did? Just maybe — we'll stop naming competive sports teams after ethnic groups and stop stereotyping people at the same time. The Fighting Irish will probably remain forever, but we'll most likely never see a basketball team named The Tall African-Americans, the Swarthy Swedes, or the Middle European Mavens.

At the same time, we wonder if the current of state of PC might cause drastic changes in the next issue of the telephone book. Imagine meeting at George's *Eagle* Inn to discuss a new sign design with *Eagle* Advertising! *Eagle* Gastroenterolgy Associates, P.C. sounds more like a job for a veterinarian and *Eagle* Heating and Air Conditioning could suggest the clear, clean air where those birds fly! *Eagle* Delivery Service sounds efficient, and *Eagle* Computer Service suggests a slick high-tech logo with noble birds flying across a vapor trail-crossed skyline, but somebody is bound to 'squawk' about capitalizing on our national bird to that extent.

Fully forty-three local companies list *Huron* Valley as the prefix for their official company name, and some think *Eagle* Valley sounds more like a fictitious setting for a made-for-TV soap series.

If such name changes are imminent, what are their members suggesting for the *Chippewa* Hills Swim and Racquet Club? And will we have to get rid of our *Mohawk* carpeting and vodka too? We chartered an *Indian* Trails Motorcoach to take us from the U.P.'s *Hiawatha* Club to *Wyandotte*, Michigan, and the passengers argued every bit of the way. Some were so enraged they were almost characterized as being on the 'warpath,' but that's passé too, thank goodness.

Being a railroad town, we have long been involved in the many sub-groups that have prospered here since we kicked out the Hurons and their woodland brothers and sisters and started roaring across the land they used to live upon so carefully. The railroads became the artery which transported all the new ethnic groups across the 'new land' and, if they stayed at the bottom of the social/economic pile, they usually lived close to the those same railroad tracks for several generations. The Chinatowns, Hungarian villages, and Poletowns were all pretty close to the depot in every Amercian city of the Industrial Revolution. As their homes moved away from the depot to the other side of the tracks, they assimilated with the rest of society.

When bragging that his family built the railroads, someone asked the speaker if he was a Carnegie, Mellon or Rockefeller. "No," said the speaker. "We were *Coolies*!" . . . and recent local custom demanded that the listeners all shrink with disgust at such a slang appellation, until the person of Chinese descent explained that 'coolie' was *their* word at the time for 'strong worker.'

If we look hard enough, maybe we can find something nice to say about everybody . . . and maybe we won't have to stereotype them by naming our local bowling team after their ancestors. And the eagles don't care. We killed off most of them when we built the railroads a long time ago.

Edifice Complex:

Local History that Never Happened

Early volunteerism

Long a bastion of avid, active community volunteerism, Ypsilantians have always been known for enlisting the help of their neighbors for the good of the community. In this historic moment, the first citizen is chosen to be the recipient of the Person of the Year Award. The tradition is something like getting beaten up for your birthday and gave birth to the theory that "no good deed shall go unpunished."

The Most Deserved Volunteer in the History of Greater Ypsilanti, according to the giant Rolodex kept in old garage on N. Adams Street, was Fenton Fishbeck, whose name appeared on every printed program and thank-you note from 1891 until a few weeks after the end of the Spanish American War (or the first effort to merge the City and Township, whichever came first).

Fishbeck was immortalized in a musical production given by an early cast of the Ypsilanti Players in which he was played as a glad-handing doorknob salesman.

Fishbeck's forté was receiving lines; he didn't care which end he was on. And he has been accredited with the abandonment of the RSVP ethic. Since Fenton retired, no one bothers to tell the host or hostess if they're coming or not. In fact, no one can even remember what the initials stand for any more. It's probably foreign, or something. Who needs it?

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Quilt Exhibition
Heritage Jazz Competition
August 16, 17, 18

Blind Pig

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ANN ARBOR, MI

SALOON

Sing a song of YPSI (-lanti)

A song sheet for local supporters and would-be musicians

New York, Chicago and San Francisco may have more than one song written about them and Kalamazoo has only one that we know of. But Ypsilanti has at least five -- and more coming.

As Bryan and VanAlstyne played with the rhyming in 1915, so can today's songsmiths play the old *June, moon, croon* game. *Ypsilanti, auntie* and *shanty* are the first to come to mind, but what about *Ypsi, gypsy* and *tipsy*? How hard are you willing to work for instant success in the music business?

Who can remember the State's Sesquicentennial song which is still echoed in TV spots from the Detroit channels? "I am Michigan, la da da da da dee dah." Easy, huh? Why not grind out another one for Our Town. Maybe Madonna will sing it at this year's Heritage Festival.

Send your submissions to The Old Caboose and you'll see it published here. And sung up and down the streets of this contemporary Tin Pan Alley. After all, as the used-to-be Ypsilanti Arts Council used to say, "Up your Ypsi!" It's still a good slogan.

Next month is:
"Let's have bigger and better slogans month!"

YPSILANTI Comic Song

(YIP-SI-LAN-TI)
Comic Song
by Alfred Bryan
& Egbert VanAlstyne
"Preforming* rights reserved"
MCMXV

I'll sing you a song that's not very long
It's crazy as crazy can be
The verse is as short as a pistol report
And the chorus is longer than me.
Chorus:
Ypsilanti, Michigan
Ypsilanti wish again.
I've got an auntie who lives in a shanty
In Ypsilanti, Michigan!

The great Russian Czar threw away his cigar
Sunday night when I sang it for him;
He ordered me shot right down there on the spot
And I juggled the ball on my chin.
Chorus

I sang it one night to the Kaiser alright
And he thought I was talking in French.
He gave me a cross, a great big iron cross,
And it hit me right square in the trench.
Chorus

A woof is a woof and a goof is a goof
And a skee is a skee all the time;
A rose has a scent, but it hasn't a cent,
And ten of them haven't a dime.
Chorus

A wop is a wop and a cop is a cop
And a hair doesn't grow on your brain;
A goo is a goo and spoo is a spoo,
Please excuse me, I'm going insane
Chorus

* [*Wop* was derogatory term at the time of this song designating immigrants who were processed With Out Papers. We're not sure what *skee, goo* and *spoo* meant then, but were pretty sure Bryan and VanAlstyne didn't get too many requests for "preforming" the song about our favorite town. -ed]

A Depot Town RAG

By Barton Polot & Tom Dodd, ©1979

When plastic living's got you down
Come down to our side of town
Everybody's coming back
Between the River and the Railroad track.
Sing a Depot Town refrain,
Wave at every passing train,
Shop for antiques on the block,
Get your old car out of hock.
Chorus:
Look at all the people
Gathered 'round the Depot
The good old days are here again
Down in Depot Town!

After decades of decay
Real renewal's here to stay
These city kids are sure not hicks:
They're bound to save this pile of bricks.
Dance and dress just like a gypsy
In this charming part of Ypsi;
Hang out at the Old Caboose
The whole darned district's on the loose!
Chorus:

Come by bike or bus or car
You won't have to travel far
Near the Market you can park
See Frog Island after dark.
Bring a paintbrush, saw or hammer;
"Preservation," we all yammer.
We are not a bunch of fools
This neighborhood is good with tools.
Chorus:

The Alibi and Sidetrack, too,
They'll do anything for you;
Old Town diners all agree
Finer food you'll never see.
This renaissance Detroit can't enter
Of local history, we're the center!
Once as hated as Willow Run,
Won't you jon in on the fun?
Chorus:

["The Rag" has appeared in these pages so many times since its debut that no one is sure any more if the monthly paper was named after the song or the song was named after the paper. Maybe it's like the town of Lakeville, up near Oxford, Michigan. It's on the shores of Lakeville Lake! -ed]

Everything's up to Code in Ypsilanti!

By a bunch of noisy people at the Sidetrack one night in the summer of 1990
(There's nothing like it in *Oklahoma!*)

Everything's up to code in Ypsilanti:
they've made it just as safe
as it can be.
You've got to get a permit now,
for everything you do
and, if you build without it,
they'll come right in after you.
It's a bigger deal than crime and drugs
and prostitution, too!
And I hear they'd like to legislate them, too.
You bet!
I hear they'd like to legislate them, too!

I bought this old place from my former
landlord:
he told me I could make
a lot of dough.
The Inspectors came and wrote us up
and then began to preach
They made us put a light switch
into every place you reach
And now the rent's so high the tenants
can't afford the breech
That's about as far as the City ought to go.
Yes, sir!
That's about as far as the City ought to go!

No one cares if you are really handy,
or if you've got the tools and plans
and such.
The thing that counts is how it's stamped -
- and if you're certified,
And even if your brother-in-law
was standing by your side
You've got to prove that it's OK
and up to union grade.
You've got to get the work done by the rule.
Uh huh!
You've got to get the work done by the rule!

Everything in Ypsi is old fashioned;
they don't build them that way
any more.
The relics that we worship now
are frighteningly old
And every one of those old dumps
was buildt before the code!
And that's what worries us about
the plastic, modern mode:
Will they ever get to be "antique?"
Oh, no!
Will they ever get to be "antique?"

[Ad infinitum .... There were more verses than anyone would listen to.]

Back to Ypsilanti

Music and Lyrics by Lee Osler, 1983
On Mustache Records,
produced by J. Ehlers and L. Osler
Arrangement by Dr. Morris Lawrence

In Michigan there is a place called Ypsilanti
It is a small, small town.
I like to think about the times in Ypsilanti
Oh, how they love to get down!
Chorus:
I'm moving back to Ypsilanti
Back to Ypsilanti where I come from.
I'm moving back to Ypsilanti
Back to Ypsilanti to have some fun!

It's only thirty miles west of
the big "D" Detroit City
It is a small college town.
They all have rhythm and they sing
in Ypsilanti
Oh, how they love to get down.
Chorus:

In Ypsilanti, there's a big, old water tower.
Ypsilanti it's the name from ancient Greece
In Ypsilanti people coming every hour.
In Ypsilanti, it's such a nice place to be!
Chorus:

In Ypsilanti you can get an education.
Ypsilanti, study hard at E.M.U.
Some people come from overseas
to Ypsilanti.
Ypsilanti, there's a chance for me and you.
Chorus:

Down in Depot Town,
Where they used to hang around
Up on Cross Street,
Where they used to eat at Lee's,
Out on Washtenaw,
where it's such a busy street,
Back on the Chicago Road,where
it's called the Avenue, I'm told
Chorus:

[In the 1980's City Council designated "Back to Ypsilanti" as *an official song of the City*. Osler and his group often perform it in the Fourth of July Parade. Osler's newest song, about the homeless, was published last month in the UAW's *Solidarity* magazine. It's also featured in this issue.]

The Homeless Song

How Would You Feel?

Words & Music by Lee Osler
®1986 Lee Osler

Sleeping in cars, because there's no place to go.
Sometimes a cardboard box
for some is all they know.
I'm crying inside,
there's a feeling you just can't hide.
How would you feel if it was you out there?
(Gotta find —)

I've got to find a place to call my own.
We've got to find a place just to belong!

Housing is high, and the poor're still poor.
Minimum wage hasn't changed
ten years or more.
They cut Medicaid and the welfare stamps.
Some lose their children,
and they put them in the foster care.
(Gotta find—)

I've got to find a place to call my own.
We've got to find a place just to belong.
How would you feel if you were in my shoes?
Uh, huh!
How would you feel? How would you feel?

How would you feel, feel, feel, feel, feel?
(2 times)
How would you feel if it was *you* out there?
Let's take some time to give and to say a prayer.

(Gotta find, gotta find, gotta find a home.
Gotta find—)
No place to bathe, no place to sleep,
No place to wash, no place to cook,
no place to eat.
No habitat, no "an abode."
No kind of place, no kind of home!

My family can't find a decent place to stay.
The landlord says, "I don't know, but somehow
you've got to find your way!"
They cut Medicaid and the welfare stamps.
Some lose their children,
and they put them in the foster care.

Ahh, no matter where I lay me down to sleep,
I still pray to the Lord my soul to keep.
And if I should die before I wake,
I still pray to the Lord my soul to take.

Living, living, living has not been easy!
How would you feel,
feel, feel, feel, feel, feel, feel?
How would you feel?
Feeling's kind of numb, numb, numb.
How would you feel? What would you do?
How would you feel?
How would you feel, feel, feel, feel,
feel, feel —?

It's not the "same old *Rag*"

May's surge of new sponsors and demand for wider distribution has spurred the producers of the monthly *Depot Town Rag* to increase their production. Our June issue saw this little Rag expand to a giant eight pages.

The Rag began nearly fifteen years ago on two sides of a mimeographed legal sheet. The front page told of recent events in the district and the back page was a poster reminding neighborhors of the DTA meeting which was held on the 3rd Thursday of each month. That was before the arrival of DTA's Old Caboose, and it was harder to get the date *and* place firmly implanted in everyone's minds.

The next version of *The Rag* was printed at a local quick copy franchise on yellowish-brown paper that kind of looked old fashioned. It sometimes ran to six sides.

After that, Hansen's Standard Printing made "an offer we couldn't refuse," and *The Rag* wasproduced on real newsprint with the cornice logo emblazoned. That format evolved into harder white paper, a six-side fold-out and computer-aided copy and graphics.

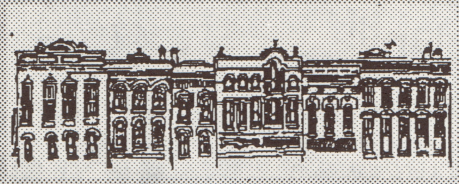
Look out, New York *Times*!

Is there a Pulitzer Prize for "self-serving?"

The line-up at Depot Town's row of newspaper boxes grew a little longer last month when we piled a stack of *Rags* there. True, *The Depot Town Rag* is only a monthly and it's the only free one, but it *did* get more interest than all the others put together. Most of the dailies can get only two dozen or so copies into those machines, but the pile of 250 copies of *The Rag* was gone by dinner time (It was a windy day!).

It all depends on what you call your own particular *newsbeat*: USA, New York, Chicago, Detroit, Ann Arbor, Ypsilanti -- or just this block! -ed.

D.T.A. President's message:



On strolling with Trolls:

Yeah, that's it. Yeah, that's how it was. One day I was walking the Tridge (pedestrian bridge connecting Riverside Park, Frog Island, and Depot Town) minding my own business and a Troll, a friendly but often mischievous little creature who lives under the Cross Street Bridge, came slithering by me and starts talking. That's right — he was talking.

True to his nature, he was instigating. "Imagine," he said, ". . . What would Depot Town be like if the Association was never formed?" Interesting question; but I knew better than to engage him in conversation. No matter what position I took, I would be the sure loser. I was no match for a Troll.

But it was a good question. I would suggest the first part of the answer might be: What was Depot Town before our Association was formed in 1976? Not much. Everywhere you looked something needed to be improved or changed. *Plans* were something you did after work.

After the Association was founded — with its sole purpose dedicated to "preserving the unique character of the neighborhood and to the enhancement of its business climate" — things started to change. A master plan, the 1976 *Depot Town Study* became the guide used by both the private and public sectors of our community for the redevelopment of the district.

This plan definitely affected the Troll's neighborhood. Soon there was a new bridge, an outdoor amphitheater, a pedestrian bridge, park improvements, street lighting, sidewalks, a Market Plaza, and other stuff that kept him where he belongs — under the bridge.

Along with the physical improvements, there was political involvement by our members, which no doubt helped with the ongoing enhancement of the City of Ypsilanti image. Neighborhood events such as the sidewalk celebration that grew into Ypsilanti's Heritage Festival and the Winter Jazz Series that grew into the Frog Island Festival were just part of many events that made the difference from "I remember when Depot Town was . . ." to ". . . Isn't Depot Town a great place to shop and enjoy the Huron River, Riverside Park, and Frog Island!"

One cool summer morning I am going for another walk down by the Tridge and if I run into the Troll, I'll have an answer to his question — What would Depot Town be like if the Association was never formed?"

Your prez, Bill French

P.S. And here are some other items to add to DTA's list of neighborhood improvments in the last fifteen years:

- The banners hanging from the light poles
- The light poles, themselves!
- The development of the Farmer's Market
- The plan for the north side parking lot
- Promotional brochures for the district
- The old Caboose as a district meeting place
- Signs from I-94 showing where we were
- The publication of a monthly newsletter

So, Mr. Troll, while you're up, get us a grant. We could apply it to the replication of the signal tower and sign plan for the district.

YPSILANTI RECYCLING PROJECT

Read *The Rag*, pass it around, then recycle it!

MEAT MARKET • VINEGAR PLANT • CIDERMILL • FARM MARKET

Wiard's ORCHARDS, INC.

Butcher Shop
Bakery, Gift Barn
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THERE IS A MATERIAL DIFFERENCE

Trade a paperback for one of Barb's for only 70c plus tax! Crazy!
Crazy Barb's
Paperback Book
Exchange!
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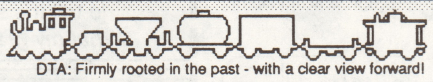
Depot Town Association, Inc., 20 June 1991



DTA: Firmly rooted in the past - with a clear view forward!

Minutes from May meeting revised: money not approved for cookie booklet unless seed money obtained.

Caboose Ant Report: Lots of ants. Gary has three bids. Orkin offers $99 down, $33 a month, Curtis does three applications for $155 total, Roach is $45 total. Gary recommends Curtis, moved and accepted. Gary will look into further roof repair.

Membership: Total paid 45 associate, 13 business, 7 sustaining.

Freighthouse: Calendar being put together by Margaret Harner.

Communications: Letter to Carolyn from Historic District Commission re: facade improvement.

Heritage Festival:

- Board approved WEMU to be compensated for advertising. Bottom line: we don't pay 10% for jazz.
- Paul found a lot of quilters in neighborhood. We will have local production. Jerry donated clamps to hang them.
- Steve Gross doing a good job as local chair and will fill us in later.
- Heritage Jazz will need to rent snow fencing. Budget is under $15,000. Program includes Robert Penn Friday night, Conqueroots Saturday night, and a salsa band on Sunday. See bout adding O'Doul's to the menu. Gary will look into Depot Town T-shirts. Insurance will be $2700 for liquor liability and comprehensive. Carolyn's report supported.

Frog Island Festival

- Program has total of $1885 paid to date, $1410 still owed. DTA should make $900 on this.
- Carolyn reported 7000+ in attendance. Bar sold 73 barrels. Merchants that were open reported good sales.
- Pins sold on the street and on the island. Report totals next month.

Signal Tower:

- Thanks to Don Bongiovanni from Midwestern Consulting for legal description of signal tower and legal description of easement at not cost.
- Revisit Tower plan as approved at last meeting. Cost for 8-sided window an additional $400.

Destination signs:

- Thanks to Huron Signs for their work in such a timely fashion. "Depot Town" signs will be placed at Huron & Cross, River & Michigan, near the Freighthouse, and at the pedestrian walkway.
- Motion passed to modify May meeting plan by adding 8-sided structure to top instead of 4 sides.
- Motion approved to accept Huron Sign concepts for signs. These are specs that will be sent out for bids.

Other projects coming up:

- Screening for rubbish dumpster, 40' X 20'.
- Benches approved for specs.
- Landscaping approved for specs.

HDC meeting for approval is July 2

Deadline for bids is July 10

Cook book: Item about cook book was in error. Bonni will be approaching business and individuals for help through a letter

Depot Town Association officers and committee chairs:

President	A. William French	- 483-1870
Vice president	Paul Fetters	- 482-8785
Secretary/editor	Tom Dodd	- 482-6371
Treasurer	Sally Richie	- 484-1510
Membership	Bonni Rosen-Fine	- 482-3463
Events	Carolyn McKeever	- 483-4256
Rag sponsorships	Rex Richie	- 484-1510
Freightouse events	Margaret Harner	-482-6373
Heritage Festival	Steve Gross	-482-1780
Information	Hot Line	-482-YPSI

Rag Sponsors: New copy for sales, specials, and discounts is encouraged by the 1st of each month c/o The Old Caboose.

Custom Heritage Festival Flyers

Hansen's

STANDARD PRINTING

35 E. Cross St.

483-0339

Stick it in *The Rag*

for only $10 month.

You can't get any more local than this!

Send your copy to The Old Caboose by the 3rd Thursday and you'll see your ad here the following month.

Many payment plans. Trust us.

The Depot Town Rag:

All the news in one block in one month

July 1991

Depot Towners are invited to participate in any or all of the following activities for the good of this old commercial district:

Depot Town Association

7:30 p.m. Thursday, 18

The Old Caboose

Depot Town Antique Engine Club

7:00 p.m. Thursday, 25

Freighthouse Coffeeshop

You can rent

The Old Caboose

($25 + $10 refundable deposit)

Call 483-4256.

THE DEPOT TOWN RAG

A publication of the Depot Town Association, Inc. a nonprofit, tax-exempt corporation dedicated to preserving the unique character of the neighborhood and to the enhancement of its business climate.

-Tom Dodd, editor

The Depot Town Association, Inc.

A. William French, president

c/o The Old Caboose

400 Market Place

Ypsilanti, Michigan 48198

Active Memberships :

• Ypsilanti Chamber of Commerce

The Depot Town Association

is a nonprofit, tax exempt corporation dedicated to preserving the unique character and history of the Depot Town area and to ensuring the economic growth and stablity of the area.

Cut out and mail your dues to:

DTA, 400 Market Place,

Ypsilanti, MI, 48198.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

❑ Associate member $10.

❑ Business/Property member $25.

❑ Sustaining member $100.

❑ Please mail *The Rag* or ❑ I'll pick it up.

PROFESSIONAL CUSTOM FRAMERS
482-8785
RIVER ARTWORKS
WE DO ART . . . . . TO ART
√ QUALITY
√ TIMELY SERVICE
48 East Cross Street
in Historic Depot Town

A Depot Town SAMPLER

Local streetside ambience abounds

City planners and urban architects are constantly searching for new ways to implant humanistic scale in their designs for new shopping plazas and mega marts. Street furniture, plantings and signs, more often than not, harken back to a gentler age of commercialism. In fact most of the new wave of commercialism is getting to look a lot like little, old Depot Town!

Our sidewalk cafés bustle with happy activity, folks sit and chat on the many park benches. Whole families pitch in and help tend the many flower beds and gardens in the district. And all this happened just because a few neighbors thought it ought to.

Don't take our happy block for granted. We've got to keep working at it to keep it good.

This coupon entitles bearer to tell the shopkeeper 1 (one) *"What my grandmother had"* story.
Depot Exchange Antiques
54 E. Cross • 482-1780

A mini-mall of unique shops
J&R Trading Post
483-5870
21 East Cross

Miller's Since 1890
ICE CREAM
Ice Cream Parlor and Emporium
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Back again and as good as ever - with new owners and the same old great Miller's Ice Cream, ice cream cakes and pies - - and a whole lot more.

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CITY BODY
20 East Cross Street

Hon's
Flowers & Fancies
46 East Cross
482-2124

TED'S
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BARBERSHOP
40 East Cross

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FRESH PRODUCE, AMISH CHICKEN, ORGANIC BEEF
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& LEARNING CENTER, LTD.
Your K12 CONNECTION
All materials for Classrooms & Curricula
(313) 482-6373
16 E. Cross Street, Ypsilanti, MI 48198

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2nd floor commercial space available - 482-6371

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13 E. Cross Street
Carpeted • Air Conditioned • Private Parking
Call: (313) 482-6373 or Inquire at Teachers Shop

Residential:

Unique studio apartment
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